



Pukekohe North School

"Setting our akonga on the path of lifelong learning"

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Newsletter to whanau

Friday 28th January 2022

Welcome Back to School - COVID Update

Kei aku nui, kei aku rahi, tēnā koutou katoa i roto i ngā āhuatanga o te wā.

I am so pleased to return with renewed energy and enthusiasm to continue our work with our Commissioner, Dr Shane Edwards and kaimahi/staff in progressing our kura/school through 2022 and beyond.

My thanks are extended to the entire kaimahi/staff and in particular Matua Henare and Whaea Nicky for the sheer hard work and effort they placed into running Pukekohe North School in my absence.

Unfortunately, my return to work coincides with our third year of COVID-19 protocols.

The following information aims to inform whanau/parents about the plans we have in place to keep your aakonga/students safe at kura/school operating under Red in Aotearoa/New Zealand's traffic light system.



When does school start?

Pukekohe North School opens for all aakonga/students on Thursday 3 February 2022 from 8.50.a.m. and we are looking forward to welcoming the aakonga/students back to school.

Vaccinated or not, with or without our school uniform, we welcome ALL aakonga/students back to kura/school next week.

Kura/school lunches are operating from this date and continue daily.

Free stationery packs will be distributed throughout our first week back at kura/school.

Key Points

1. All aakonga/students are expected to be back at school from 3.2.22
2. Aakonga/students are to enter/leave Pukekohe North School either from the Beatty Road pedestrian crossing or via our lower gate on Princes Street by the music suite.
3. Gates open between 8.30 – 8.50.a.m. and then will be locked until 2.40-3.00.p.m.
4. Our kura/school is locked to everyone except essential manuhiri/visitors who must sign in at the office and of course wear a mask
5. All adults and Year 4- 8 aakonga/students must wear a sanctioned mask (we have masks available at kura/school)
6. Aakonga/students will be scheduled into the playground on a roster basis through the day to protect possible contamination between groups
7. Classes will be well-ventilated from 8.00.a.m. – 3.00.p.m. daily
8. Classroom surfaces and door handles will be regularly sanitised
9. Aakonga/students are encouraged to bring their own refillable water bottles to kura/school. We will provide drink bottles to aakonga/students who do not have one.
10. Our fountains are turned off but our refill bubblers are working to fill the water bottles
11. Kura/school assemblies will be held using Google Meet to ensure we do not have large groups of aakonga/students together
12. Outside experiences for aakonga/students are on hold at present (class trips, sporting events)



Further COVID information from the Ministry of Education

Events and activities

Large hui and gatherings especially when indoors continue to be one of the riskier activities we can undertake. We have therefore reviewed all our events and activities for the upcoming term to ensure we meet the health guidance for Red.

Whanau Night -Thursday 10 February

Achievement Assembly Friday 11 February and fortnightly thereafter

PB4L Assembly Monday 14 February and weekly thereafter

Ultra Rippa Rugby Tuesday 22 March,

Rippa Rugby Wednesday 23 March

Girls only Ultra Rip Thursday 24 March

End of Term Assembly Thursday 14 April

Vaccination for five- to 11-year-olds

Vaccination, including a booster shot, remains an important tool to help prevent the most serious harm from the COVID-19 virus. If aakonga/students who have been vaccinated do develop COVID-19, they are far less likely to get seriously ill and less likely to transmit the virus to others.

The free five- to 11-year-old vaccination programme is now underway and more than 100,000 children in New Zealand have had their first dose.

There is some helpful information available to support you on the [Unite Against COVID-19 website](#) including [How to book a vaccine for your five – 11 year old](#) and [some great videos](#) on the Kids Health page that can support you to talk to your aakonga/students about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Managing cases in our school

We have a good contact tracing system in place so that if there is a confirmed case who has been at school while infectious, we can quickly identify who was a close contact of that person. We will then quickly advise those contacts of what they need to do.

Only if the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Education advises to do so, would we consider closing kura / school and moving to distance learning for everyone. At Red we will keep everyone learning onsite for as long as we can.

Please make sure your contact details we have on file are up to date, so we can get in touch with you if needed.

Preparing for COVID-19

You can also prepare for COVID-19, making sure you and your household have a plan and know what to do. This will mean your whaanau and community can help each other if needed. Find out more here:

- [Be prepared for COVID-19](#)
- [What to expect when self-isolating at home](#)

Self-isolating at home because of COVID-19

Many people will be able to manage self-isolation with help from friends and whaanau, but there is help available if you need it – both with health support and access to food and other essentials.

- [What to expect when self-isolating at home | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)
- [Getting extra support if you have COVID-19 or are self-isolating | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)
- [COVID-19 positive – managing your symptoms | Health Navigator NZ](#)

If you know anyone in your community affected by COVID-19 and who may need help, such as food and other financial assistance, Work and Income has a range of [supports available for individuals, families, employers and self-employed people affected by COVID-19.](#)

Work and Income support

The beginning of the year can be a tough time for parents who are faced with many costs and it is important you are aware of what assistance you may be able to get from Work and Income. These are available to people on a low income as well as those on a benefit.

Check what you might get here

- [School costs](#)
- [Out of School Care and Recreation \(OSCAR\) Subsidy](#)
- [Other Childcare Assistance](#)
- [School and Year Start-up Payment](#)
- [Help with living costs \(including food and rent/mortgage\)](#)

Use the links above or call 0800 559 009 to find out more, or to apply.

MoneyTalks can assist with [free budgeting and debt help](#)

You can also contact your local community provider. [Please find more information here.](#)

Getting ready to return to school

The Ministry of Education has some helpful information on their [Parents and Whaanau website](#) to support your tamariki to get back to school. There is also a very important reminder about how you can [take care of yourself](#).

While this might all feel a little overwhelming at times, we know that all these measures will help our children return to school, reconnect with whaanau and friends and do what they enjoy.

We are also here to help. Please get in touch if you have any concerns or need help in any way by calling our Freephone 0800 785 366

Ngaa mihi,
Matua Jim
Principal



